

THE EVENT HORIZON



ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

*Devoted to the Interest and Advancement
of the Science of Astronomy*

Volume 20, Issue 6
June, 2010



The Geology of Mars

Dr. Edward Guinness of Washington University will be the speaker for the regular meeting Friday, June 18.

Mars has long been of scientific interest because of its similarities to Earth geology and the possibility of its having habitable environments either today or in the past. Earthbound telescopes and a fleet of robotic planetary spacecraft have observed Mars for many years. The pace of exploration has quickened in the last decade. Today, multiple spacecraft probe Mars from the surface and from Mars orbit. Dr. Guinness will discuss our current state of understanding of the geology of Mars. He will also present an update of recent activities conducted by the Mars Exploration Rovers on the surface of the Red Planet.

Edward Guinness is a Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Washington University. He has over 30 years of experience in studying Mars surface processes. He is part of the geology team that has controlled the activity of the two Mars rovers for the past six and a half years. An author or co-author of over 50 scientific articles, Dr. Guinness also works on many NASA planetary missions. He helps to generate the digital archives that make the data from spacecraft instruments available to scientists all over the world. Dr. Guinness resides in Webster Groves, MO.

Election Results

The May election results are in and the following members were elected to office:

President: Jim Small

Vice President: Rich Heuermann

Treasurer: Brent Buch

Secretary: Joe McHugh

Hospitality: Grant Martin

Board Member at Large: Jim Trull

In addition to the election, this month the board created a new committee position called the Membership committee, with Don Ficken as the chair of the committee. The purpose of this committee is to relieve some of the pressure of dealing with all membership issues from the Hospitality Chair and to make the position more manageable. The email address for the membership chair will be membership at slasonline.org and email to that address will go to Don Ficken, Grant Martin and the president of the society.

After the meeting on Friday, email to the offices listed above will only go to the newly elected members. Currently, email to any of the elected offices goes to current and elected members.

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors as we look forward to a new year at the St. Louis Astronomical Society.

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President's Corner *by Jim Small*

" My theme for SLAS this year is committees"

"we will be looking for ways to get as many people involved as possible in the Society"



Volunteers are needed to help SLAS fulfill its mission

I'm looking forward to serving the St. Louis Astronomical Society as the President this year and into 2011. The society is on the upswing, with membership on the rise, star parties on the rise and volunteers for outreach and other duties increasing. We are up to 150+ members now, up 20-25 members since the last time I served on the board. A new membership committee was created by the board to look into ways to increase our membership and to better serve the members we currently have. Don Ficken is the chair of the committee and so far, Grant Martin and myself are a part of the committee. If you are interested, please contact Don. The email address for the committee is membership at slasonline.org.

I would also like to welcome the newly elected board members who volunteered for various positions. Thanks to Jim Trull for serving another three years as a Board Member at Large. Thanks also to Rich Heuermann for stepping into the Vice President position. Joe McHugh has volunteered to be our new Secretary and Brent Buch was elected to the Treasurer position. Brent has already been busy working with Don on all the procedures that go with new and renewing members and tracking all of our accounts. It was a pretty major effort to change over the accounts to the new officers. Joe has already shadowed Rich to get the minutes for the board meeting written. Thanks for the effort Brent! Grant Martin has volunteered to serve as Hospitality Chair. I don't think you'll have any trouble finding him at the meetings. He plans to be very visible to new and current members! Look for his invitation to get involved with Hospitality elsewhere in this issue.

You may have noted the kinds of events I am attending this summer. Most of them are directly related to either teaching astronomy or amateur

astronomy groups. I will be attending ALCON next week and will make contact with the people that run the Night Sky Network at the meeting in addition to attending many other sessions dealing with astronomy and amateur astronomy groups. I am planning on sharing knowledge gained with SLAS on my return. Others are planning on attending ALCON as well, so there will be multiple SLAS members in attendance.

The other meetings I am attending relate to teaching astronomy and some of the techniques and knowledge from those meetings will also apply to our group and our outreach efforts.

I can't say enough about the need for volunteers to get involved with the Society. Our mission is completely dependent on those who put in their hard-earned time to work at outreach events, perform jobs for the society and to lead us into the future. My theme for SLAS this year is committees. Instead of having every job performed by one person, or having the same persons work outreach events, we will be looking for ways to get as many people involved as possible in the Society. It is the only way we can prevent the traditional burn out that happens in so many organizations.

You might say, "but I don't know how to do that job, or I don't know what to do at an outreach event!" That's ok, because for any position you might want to tackle, or any outreach event you might want to help with, we have many resources, both people and other resources, to help you get there.

SLAS is making a difference in the St. Louis community and it's up to all of us to continue improving that difference. I've seen it happen with other organizations and I hope to see it blossom with the St. Louis Astronomical Society. I'm looking forward to serving all of you as we move toward our common goals.

Ex-President's Corner

by John Newcomer



Over the last week or so, I've been reflecting on the time I've spent as the president of this society. And again, I am both proud and grateful for having served at this particular time.

When I look over the speakers who have graciously donated their time and energy to speak to us (<http://www.slasonline.org/pastmeetings.htm>); from our own members sharing their passion for the night sky, to local teachers, to nationally known authors, to professional scientists, to the Vatican astronomer, I am amazed by the diversity of presentations we've provided to the membership.

When I look at the community exposure we've had, in the 2008 Thanksgiving Day parade, from the network and local television station appearances we've made, to our members who are active in regional astronomy organizations, I realize the reach that we have across the both the St. Louis and mid-west regions.

When I look at the outreach and partnership we've been involved in; from the ongoing collaboration with the St. Louis Science Center (in spite of the corporate indifference they've shown us), to the proclamations from both the City of St. Louis, and St. Louis County for the International Year of Astronomy, to the events at Babler and Francis Parks, to the Moonrise Hotel grand opening, to the partnership we've had with other area astronomy groups, to the budding partnerships we have with the Arch and the YMCA, I see the positive impact we have on our society.

When I look at the educational parties and in-class presentations we've done, I see the vast potential in our region's youth; and we ARE POSITIVELY INFLUENCING THEM to explore the sciences, I am humbled by what our future holds.

Most of what I've just described was the work of others. I thank you for letting me be a part of all this.

"I am both proud and grateful for having served at this particular time."

Thank you to those who submitted articles to use in this month's Event Horizon. Please send articles and/or photographs to:

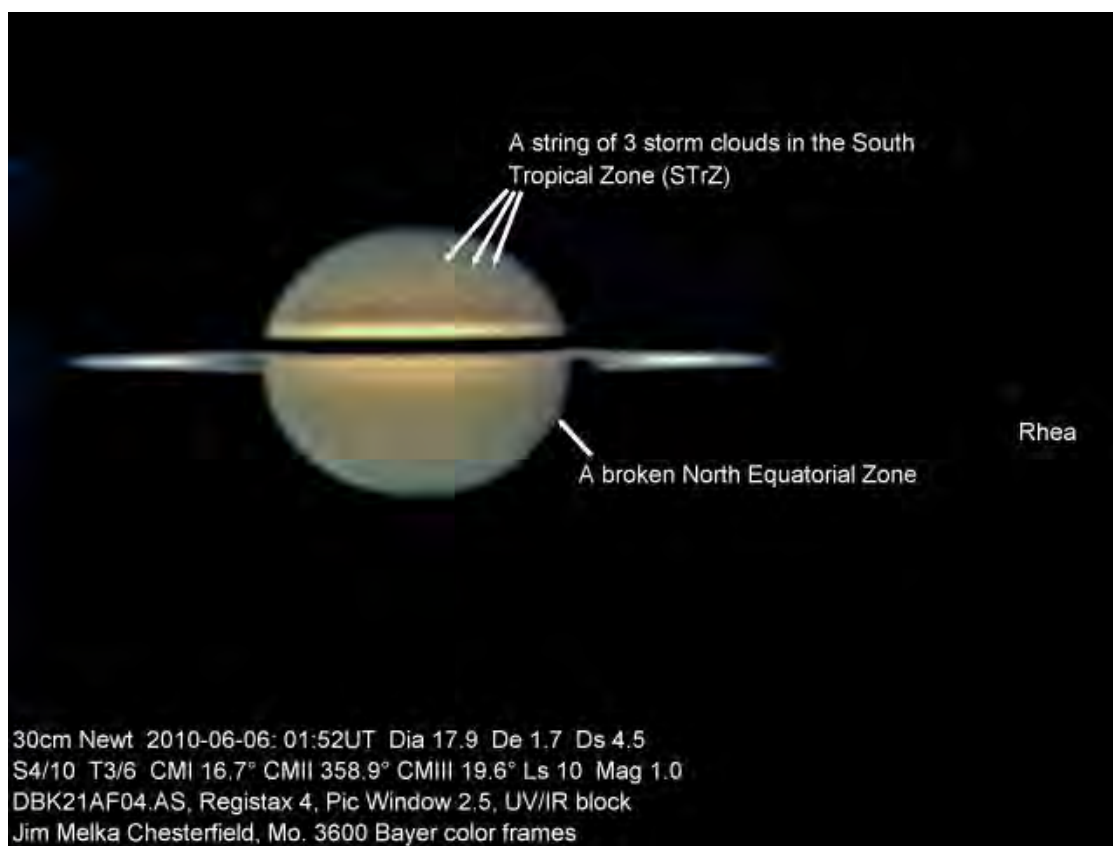
newsletter at slasonline.org

The deadline for articles is 5 pm the Friday after the Board Meetings.

Calling all Bakery and Pastry Chefs (or wannabes)

Now's your chance to become Rich and Famous (well, famous) and help out your local Astronomy club!

We would like to see our members show off their cooking skills by whipping up the center piece sweet at the monthly general meeting. We know we have plenty of talent and not only would we like to see it showcased and rewarded, we would like to experience it first hand. If you are interested in a tremendous opportunity to shine and impress your fellow club members, please contact Grant Martin after the meeting, at [hospitality at slasonline.org](http://hospitality.slasonline.org) or 636 947 1072 !!



Telescope for Sale

Ms. Linda Glassner has a 10" LX-200 with EMC coatings for sale. It has the AutoStar II hand controller, which (we think) includes a 64,000 object database. Please contact skykeeper1515@gmail.com if interested.

Other accessories include:

LV-4mm, LV-15mm, LV-9mm, TeleVue Nagler 4.8mm

Orion Advanced set of 4 filters for 1.25" # 05570

Orion Expansion Set of 4 filters for 1.25" # 05516

Orion Basic Set of 4 filters for 1.25" # 05514

Assorted books

Telrad

Asking price: \$1,000.



St. Louis Astronomical Society

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement
of the Science of Astronomy

2010-2011 Meeting Schedule

SLAS Executive Board Meetings	SLAS Regular Meetings
Thursdays at Wired Coffee, 3860 S. Lindbergh, Sunset Hills, MO 63127	3rd Fridays at McDonnell Hall, Washington University, St Louis, MO 63130
June 10	June 18
July 7th (Wednesday)	July 16
August 12	August 20
September 9	September 17
October 7	October 15
November 4	November 19
December 9	December 17
January 6, 2011	January 21, 2011
February 10	February 18
March 10	March 18
April 7	April 15
May 5	May 20
June 9	June 17

SLAS

Who We Are and What We Do

St. Louis Astronomical Society is a not-for-profit organization established in 1936. SLAS is dedicated to science, and the pursuit of astronomy and related sciences.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in astronomy.

SLAS Members:

- Receive our monthly newsletter
- Are invited to "members only" dark site star parties and other "members only" activities.
- Receive a 10% discount on astronomy magazines and books.
- May borrow useful astronomy-related publications and books from our SLAS lending library.
- Are eligible to participate in observing programs sponsored by the Astronomical League.
- Are automatically members of the Astronomical League. Benefits of this membership include the quarterly publication "The Reflector".
- May join the members-only online community SLASdialogs and communicate with other SLAS members.

What does our society do?

- In partnership with the St. Louis Science Center, SLAS hosts a public viewing session on the second Friday of each month in Forest Park's Archery Field which is located west of the McDonnell Planetarium.
- Hosts monthly star parties at Francis Park.
- Brings educational star parties to school and other organizations.
- Offers public monthly lectures which are open to the public. These lectures often have guest lecturers—often professional researchers in astronomy-related fields. Meetings offer the opportunity to meet SLAS officers and other SLAS members.
- Organizes and hosts members-only social functions, including our annual Star-B-Q, fall observing camp out, and SLAS Home-made Fest.

For more information contact any SLAS officer or visit our website:

www.slasonline.org

SLAS is affiliated with the Astronomical League and the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League

Upcoming Star Parties and Other Events

SLAS Regular Meeting

Date: Friday, 3/19/2010 **Time:** 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Room 162 McDonnell Hall, Washington University, Saint Louis, MO

For details on these and other upcoming events, check out the **Night Sky Network Calendar** linked on the Home Page for SLAS at <http://www.slasonline.org>

Observing 2010

Dark Sky Observing Dates (all are Saturdays)

Jul 10 Aug 7 (Star-B-Q Babler State Park)
Aug 14 Sep 4 Oct 9 Nov 6

2010 is a fairly bland year for astronomical events. Besides the usual planetary oppositions and meteor showers, only a few rare events occur. Of particular note will be the Partial Lunar eclipse on June 26 and the Total Lunar eclipse on Dec 21.

June 26 - Partial Lunar Eclipse.

Start=4:20AM Alt=2deg

Moonset=4:31AM

December 21 - Total Lunar Eclipse.

start=12:34AM Alt=72deg

Totality Start=1:41AM Alt=63deg

Totality end=2:52AM Alt=50deg

Eclipse End=3:59AM Alt=37deg

June 16, 2010 Wednesday

Francis Park Stargazing

June 18, 2010 Friday

SLAS Gen. Membership Mtg.)

June 23, 2010 Wednesday

Stargazing at the Arch (must have registered with Cook Feldman two weeks in advance)

July 2, 2010 Friday

SLSC Public Telescope Viewing

July 9/10 2009 Friday

WOW, Forest Park

July 14, 2010 Wednesday

Francis Park Stargazing

July 22, 2010 Thursday

Stargazing at the Arch (must have registered with Cook Feldman two weeks in advance)

August 19, 2010 Thursday

Stargazing at the Arch (must have registered with Cook Feldman two weeks in advance)

Future Francis Park Events:

8/18/10

9/15/10

10/13/10

11/10/10

12/15/10

Future SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events

8/6/10

9/3/10

10/1/10

11/5/10

12/3/10

Future Star Parties

Oct. 14, 2010 Thursday

Bristol Elementary

Oct. 19, 2010 Tuesday

Daniel Boone Branch Library



LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING!

To RSVP for any of these events log in to the Night Sky Network and submit your RSVP. If the event is canceled, you will be notified immediately according to the preferences you have selected. For more information about events, such as Moon phase, clear sky clock, weather report or a map of what's up, see the calendar online.

SLAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name: Last _____
 First, Middle Initial _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____
 email address _____

Youth @ \$10.00 / 1 year (18 yrs or younger) \$ _____

Individual @ \$25.00 / 1 year \$ _____

Family @ \$40.00/1 year \$ _____

Publications with discount available with your SLAS membership:

Sky and Telescope @ \$32.95 / 1 year \$ _____

(S&T may also be renewed at their website:
<http://www.skyandtelescope.com>)

Astronomy @ \$34.00 / 1 year \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please send completed form with check (no cash please) made payable to

St Louis Astronomical Society

Brent Buch, Treasurer
 1610 B Forest Springs Lane
 Ballwin, MO 63021-7794

Check all that apply:

- Renewal
- Address Change Only
- Please send my newsletter by regular mail
- New Member!***

SLAS OFFICERS

President *Jim Small* 314-307-0692
 president at slasonline.org

Vice President *Rich Heuermann* 314-962-9231
 vicepresident at slasonline.org

Secretary *Joe McHugh* 314-363-8169
 secretary at slasonline.org

Treasurer *Brent Buch* 636-225-0269
 treasurer at slasonline.org

Hospitality *Grant Martin* 636-634-6607
 hospitality at slasonline.org

Board Members at Large:
Cook Feldman 314-984-0868
 board11 at slasonline.org

Bill Breeden 314-276-3613
 board12 at slasonline.org

Jim Trull 314-842-6165
 board13 at slasonline.org

ALCOR Astronomical League Representative *Brent Buch*

Publicity—*Rich Heuermann* 314-962-9231
 publicity at slasonline.org

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 darksite at slasonline.org

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 observing at slasonline.org

Librarian *Jim Small* 314-909-7211
 librarian at slasonline.org

Loaner Scopes *Linda and John Follis* 636-583-3485
 loaner at slasonline.org

Merchandise *Grant Martin* 636-634-6607
 merchandise at slasonline.org

SLASdialogs Moderator *John Beaury* 314-965-9094
 dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com

Star Party Coordinator *Mike Malolepszy* 314-781-4701
 vicepresident at slasonline.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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 telescope at slasonline.org

Webmaster *Jim Small* 314-909-7211
 webmaster at slasonline.org

Membership *Don Ficken* 636-225-0269
 membership at slasonline.org

Newsletter Editor *WE NEED A NEW EDITOR!!*
 newsletter at slasonline.org

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

We're on the Web!
<http://www.slasonline.org>

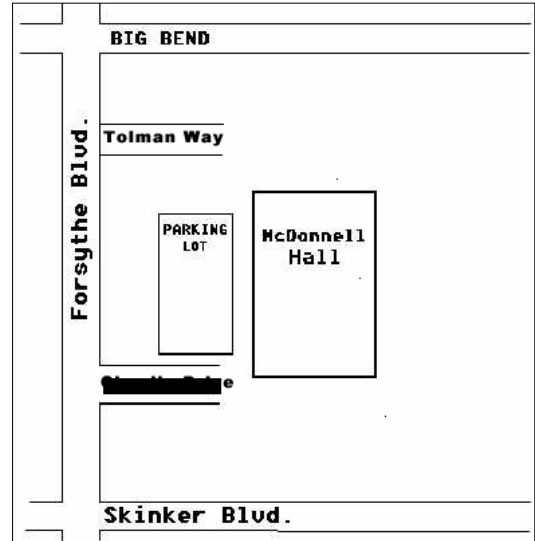


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For more information contact any SLAS officer or visit our website listed above. SLAS is affiliated with the Astronomical League, Night Sky Network and the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League.

Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month at McDonnell Hall at Washington University. See the map to the right for directions.



St. Louis Astronomical Society

Jim Small
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St. Louis, MO 63122

